

Ancient ST 2351

Chapter 2351 - The Water Emperor and The Divinity Scattering Powder.

Nalan Qing and Qing Shui walked to the door. She saw the cold, unforgiving look in Beiyuan Maji's eyes. There were no emotions at all, as if he was looking at a stone in the road.

"What great courage. You really brought a man to stay in your house overnight; all this while everyone thought you were as clear as ice and as pure as jade. But I guess you've always been this dissolute." Beiyuan Maji's eyes shone with anger and a hint of lust.

He regretted not making a move earlier. He had just been defeated by an outsider. This was a huge cause of depression for him. He had always thought that there was still time, and that no one would dare hit on a woman from the Beiyuan Clan. He believed he was not in a hurry. He thought that since she was always in close proximity, she would not be able to run away.

Qing Shui saw that Nalan Qing slowly started to pale. Although she wasn't weak mentally, she was still a woman. A dignified woman. Having such harsh words said to her, she would definitely feel very uncomfortable. This discomfort was not because of Beiyuan Maji. Even Qing Shui himself did not know who the reason behind it was.

"Young man, you really are very brave, daring to stay the night with her. When I previously called you a fool, I didn't think that you were actually one. Did you really find it worthwhile to die for a peony?" Beiyuan Maji glared at Qing Shui, his heart feeling like he just ate a bunch of insects, gloomy and depressed.

"This kind of creature, I can't count how many times I've encountered it on my journey. One more silly than the other, but still thinking that they were very smart. Really, such foolish creatures. I see that you won't be satisfied since I did not punch you the other day. Now I'll just beat you down this time."

Right after Qing Shui finished, he summoned a huge handprint.

A giant golden handprint began forming in the air, glittering and shining. The incomparable giant, golden, and glowing hand, was suddenly smashed down.

Bam!

The sky was filled with dust. Fortunately, they were at the door so the handprint had only created a large hole in the ground. Upon being struck, everyone spat out mouthfuls of blood, as Qing Shui's strength caught them off guard...

Upon first glance, Qing Shui looked very young, so these people didn't regard Qing Shui as a threat and thought he was just some sort of love con. They didn't expect him to have such strong cultivation. Beiyuan Maji himself was nothing, but there were experts around to protect him.

Although this attack was especially strong, it didn't completely wipe out the group but still caused some casualties and all of the men were injured.

"Scram while you can. Else I can't say whether you'll continue living or not."

Beiyuan Maji obviously did not dare to continue his business here. He gathered his men and hurriedly ran away.

Nalan Qing's gaze was complex as she stared at Qing Shui. The path ahead was no longer under her control. She faced Qing Shui, "Let's go. I'll bring you to meet my father."

Qing Shui beamed and nodded.

The Royal Palace was located directly North of the Crystal Palace. The closer they got to the palace, the more pressured he felt. The pressure was so high that it caused fear. The pressure was due to the Crystal Dragon, a national Guardian Beast.

The Royal Palace covered an enormous area of land. It was magnificent beyond compare, as if a huge ancient beast was residing in it. The whole structure had a mysterious layout and possessed some sort of strange power. It hid the power of formations and mysterious Eight Trigrams.

With all of these structures, it would be difficult for even strong individuals to break into the palace. Such a mysterious formation would reflect a portion of the enemy assault back onto the assailants. Of course, experts with extraordinarily profound enlightenment could still destroy the formation.

"The Royal Princess has arrived!"

The moment Nalan Qing walked into the doors of the palace, the guards all bowed down respectfully.

Nalan Qing nodded at them and walked into the palace with Qing Shui. The whole way was smooth and undisrupted. From time to time, some people would greet Nalan Qing.

Every hundred meters, the wide stone steps would rise by ten meters. On both sides, there stood buildings. Right at the front was the main hall which had some sort of heavenly feeling, as if it was sitting on top of a mountain. The whole palace was bathed in a hint of the Heavenly Daos' glory.

The palace extended wide in all four directions. The lakes, hills, gardens, and such were all massive beyond measure. There were some beasts living in the lake with precious herbs that could be over ten thousand years old.

Nalan Qing and Qing Shui did not enter the main hall. After walking some distance, they began to head northwest. The corridors here were zig-zagging in every direction and it was possible to lose one's way during a first visit there. It was like a maze and they walked into a place that seemed like it belonged in an ordinary palace.

After entering, he realized that the palace was very huge but the interior atmosphere was still luxurious, tall and wide. There was a red carpet made from animal skin in the middle of the floor. The hall was quite empty and spacious, but with one glance, Qing Shui already saw the man in the middle of the hall.

He could tell that this man was the Water Emperor.

The man looked middle-aged; he was extremely handsome, and had a strong and rich aura around him. His body was well-proportioned, neither fat nor thin, but standing there, he looked like a giant mountain. His bright eyes held wisdom, majesty, and dominance.

"Little lass, this is?" The man looked happy to see Nalan Qing.

“Father, this is my friend. He is able to help the Nalan Clan.” Nalan Qing said without beating around the bush.

“...Daughter, these few years I have wronged you. I will inform the Beiyuan Clan that you no longer have anything to do with them,” the Water Emperor said as he surveyed Qing Shui.

“Dad!” Nalan Qing lightly exclaimed.

“Listen to me. Our Nalan Clan is still able to resist them and so we shall. They will not make a move on us. Young man, I can see you are very talented. Take my daughter and leave this place, please take good care of her.” the Water Emperor said while looking at Qing Shui.

“Dad! I’m not going anywhere!” Nalan Qing said resolutely.

“You’ve grown up. I’ve put you through enough in these few years. Go! I can still protect you two leaving.” the Water Emperor said steely.

“Hm. Seems like you still are a good father. You deserve some help.” Qing Shui grinned.

The Water Emperor frowned, confusion apparent on his face as he stared at Qing Shui.

“You are also poisoned by the Divinity Scattering Powder. This type of poisoning has no cure, being very rare and precious. Using it on your body is not a waste,” Qing Shui said while looking at the Water Emperor.

The Water Emperor jolted, as his eyes sharply focused on Qing Shui. There were a number of people who knew about his poisoning, but only a rare few knew what exactly he was poisoned by. However, this young man knew, causing the emperor to suspect his true identity.

The Water Emperor himself didn’t know who had poisoned him, but he did know the power that the culprit belonged to. He wanted Qing Shui to take Nalan Qing away because he saw the boy’s youth and came to the conclusion that he couldn’t have been that culprit behind the poisoning.

“Are you suspecting that I’m the one who poisoned you?” Qing Shui chuckled.

“Dad, it isn’t him. That I am sure of. He’s here to cure you and the whole clan of the poison,” Nalan Qing quickly persuaded.

“Well, I trust my daughter,” the Water Emperor laughed out.

Qing Shui knew that he truly didn’t buy it, but it was irrelevant. Whether dealing with the Beiyuan Clan or other powers, once the Nalan Clan’s strength was restored, they could deal with these people themselves.

Chapter 2352 - Curing Poisoning, This Woman Can Apparently Blush.

Nalan Qing didn’t know why she had complete faith in Qing Shui, but after her father agreed, she felt extremely happy. She looked over at Qing Shui, signaling that he could start the procedure to treat the poisoning.

Qing Shui rubbed his nose and walked over, “The Divinity Scattering Powder works as its name suggests. Even a divine individual could be reduced to a commoner. The powder is not fatal, but it will cause a

decline in one's power. The most severe case is when bones start to scatter and you just become a cripple."

"Young man, you had already said that this poison has no cure. How would you be able to treat me?"
The Water Emperor smiled.

Qing Shui admired the Water Emperor's calm demeanor. If it were other people that realized they were poisoned by the Divinity Scattering Powder, it would be impossible to remain this calm. Death itself was not as fearsome as waiting for it.

For warriors, becoming a good-for-nothing waste was a fate worse than death.

"The Water Emperor's breadth of mind is very wide. Your calmness in this situation already shows that you're transcendent," Qing Shui sincerely said.

"I am not free and unrestrained. I am just accepting fate. If recovery is impossible then I can only accept this. It is useless to live in fear. Won't it be better to spend the remaining days wisely?" The Water Emperor smiled warmly.

"I understand your point, but few can accomplish this." Qing Shui had already started to feel his pulse.

The Water Emperor's poisoning was serious and his strength had been slashed down to 3 trillion Daos, a testament of his already powerful strength.

The Sky-Obstructing Crow had once said that he could enter the fourth Domain. Yet, it would be a fruitless endeavor. At the peak of the emperor's power, his strength had exceeded 4 trillion Daos.

"The Water Emperor is really strong. It's no wonder that they would team up to overthrow you. At your prime, you would have crushed them," Qing Shui said, astonished.

"You can see my strength?" The Water Emperor was stunned.

"Your current strength is around 3 trillion Daos. I don't know if it's because of your skills or other treasures, but your body can delay the process of decay." Qing Shui retracted his hand.

"It seems like I really underestimated you," The Water Emperor said in shock.

"I don't know where your strength stands in the Demon King Domain. Is it convenient for you to tell me?" Qing Shui curiously questioned.

"There is no point in hiding this. The strongest has around 4.5 trillion Daos of strength, apart from some Guardian Beasts."

It was more or less what Qing Shui had guessed. He assumed that there weren't any surpassing 5 trillion Daos. He could crush the entire domain with the Divine Battle Puppet and probably even deal with the Guardian Beasts with the help of some supplementary techniques.

"I know that you don't fully trust me as of now. If required to gain your trust, we can have a battle. I can easily and quickly defeat you. This should prove to you how I can know that you were poisoned," Qing Shui grinned and said.

Upon hearing what Qing Shui said, the Water Emperor could feel Qing Shui's sincerity. Even though his strength was diminishing, his vision and wisdom were still there. Originally, he had felt Qing Shui's strength, but it quickly became indiscernible.

Such a situation showed that the strength displayed previously was fake. The youth was already a genius with such strength, and for it to be faked proved that this man was simply a devilish genius.

"That is not necessary. I trust you." The Water Emperor continued.

Qing Shui did not insist on it. He had never cured anyone with Divinity Scattering Powder poisoning before, but he had experience on curing poisoning of the Black Ice Divine Worm. As such, he already had a breakthrough in nullifying poisons. The inconvenience of doing so to those infected by Divine Scattering Powder was that the medicine was required to be injected into every part of the body.

But to Qing Shui, all these weren't too big of a problem.

Sealing his veins with a golden needle, he gave the emperor a Bone Cleansing Pill and an Impurities Washing Pill, which cleaned up all the excess impurities and toxins.

Following that, the golden needle was used to clean his blood.

This process looked simple, but other than this, Qing Shui really couldn't do much, especially because every part of the body had to go through the treatment. Otherwise, all efforts would be wasted. Additionally, the treatment had to be done inside out to expel everything while sealing the bits that couldn't be expelled.

Time passed slowly as the Water Emperor turned a shade of grey. The poison in his body had risen to the surface of his skin. Tiny drops of perspiration had already dotted Qing Shui's face. Nalan Qing naturally took out her handkerchief and wiped his sweat off.

Though this action seemed natural, Qing Shui was touched by her warmth, especially when her warm little hand touched his face. A wave of indescribable emotions rushed through Qing Shui's heart. Nalan Qing herself was taken aback by her own gesture as a new feeling rose up in her.

Grey droplets were removed drop by drop using the golden needle. Things like these hardly had any smell. With every drop of grey substance removed, the Water Emperor's skin color returned to normal. At the same time, his strength was also being slowly restored.

A whole half hour later, Qing Shui didn't speak after storing the needles. The Water Emperor could tell that he had fully recovered, but still couldn't accept it. He had never even hoped to be cured, and yet here he was, perfectly healthy.

Nalan Qing handed a cup of water to Qing Shui, saying, "Drink up!"

Qing Shui took the cup in his hands and laughed. This woman did not ask her father how he was doing first, but instead, poured water for him. Such an action expressed that she was concerned about him; she would not directly ask him how he was feeling.

Then she looked at the Water Emperor to ask, "Father, how are you feeling?"

"I can't believe it, but I'm perfectly fine. You have to take your chance with this sort of genius." the Water Emperor looked a lot more relaxed. Seeing her hand him a cup of water, he understood his daughter best. Though it was related to curing him, such initiative was not easy for her, as he missed out on seeing her wipe his sweat.

What was more surprising was that he knew that they lived together. Of course, he also knew that Qing Shui and his daughter lived in separate rooms, but living together already meant a lot of things.

"Dad, what rubbish are you spouting? You seem fine now. Thank you, Qing Shui!" Nalan Qing said happily, looking at Qing Shui's direction.

The Water Emperor had a wave of warmth in his heart. It was not that he didn't love her previously; because of his body condition, he couldn't do much. It was also for her safety. Now that everything is fine, he, as a father, could finally heave a sigh of relief. The hardships that he kept repressed these few years were indescribable.

"Water Emperor, I don't know who else has been poisoned. I can only treat three people a day," Qing Shui said after thinking for a bit.

"Qing Shui, you must be tired today. Wait till you are fully rested," Nalan Qing lightly suggested.

"My daughter is right," the Water Emperor smiled.

Nalan Qing's face reddened a bit, this was her first brush with vulnerability around Qing Shui. There was the matter of her father, and also some inexplicable feeling.

Chapter 2353 - Could This Be the Feeling of Falling in Love...?

Qing Shui saw Nalan Qing blush. This sight was distinct and clear. She was absolutely breathtaking. Qing Shui was dumbfounded for a long while and when he snapped out of it, he saw the Water Emperor looking at him jokingly, while Nalan Qing gave him a weird glare.

"Sister Qing, you're simply too stunning. I couldn't help but stare. Please don't take offense." Qing Shui laughed awkwardly.

If it was only Qing Shui and Nalan Qing, it would not be that weird. He was too shameless to care about that. However, her dad was there, too. No matter how shameless he was, he wouldn't dare to be so in front of him.

"Haha, you can keep your composure around her and have such a righteous aura. If you think you can get my daughter then go ahead. I'll support you." The Water Emperor laughed.

Qing Shui rubbed his nose. Initially, Beihuang Liefeng had encouraged him to chase his daughter, but the Water Emperor also brought this girl in as well. Were their daughters really this unmarriageable?

"Daddy, how could you team up with an outsider to bully me?" Nalan Qing said, dumbfounded.

"I'm doing this for your future happiness. Trust my judgment." The Water Emperor laughed.

In a bit, the Water Emperor ordered a large table's worth of dishes and wine, inviting Qing Shui to join. The meal was just for the three of them. It was not good for outsiders to know of the Water Emperor's recovery.

"Come. You are the Nalan Clan's benefactor. Here's a toast to you." The Water Emperor stood up as he held the wine glass.

"It's fine. Let's stick to drinking wine and not talk about this. I couldn't possibly beat the weight of this label. It is fate that I met elder sister Qing. Without her, we wouldn't have met," Qing Shui said truthfully.

Nalan Qing and Qing Shui were sitting side by side so she turned around and pinched his forearm with all her might.

Qing Shui realized that she resembled a young girl and stealthily extended his arm to stop her, holding her hand for a brief moment before letting go. Nalan Qing's heart began to race, but she dared not take action with her father present. Her face was as red as a tomato during this whole exchange.

Their flirtatious moves were picked up by the Water Emperor, but he pretended to be none the wiser. The sight made him happy. Qing Shui and the Water Emperor drank a cup. The Water Emperor then shared another drink with his daughter. Naturally, Qing Shui and Nalan Qing also drank a cup.

They agreed to start treating three people every day from the next day onwards. The Water Emperor did not know if the others suffered under the Divinity Scattering Powder as well, but Qing Shui did tell them the powder was rare, expensive, and precious. There couldn't be many victims with insufficient powder.

There could be exceptions, but then it would be too wasteful.

The imperial palace had a hall for Nalan Qing so the Water Emperor left arrangements for Qing Shui to Nalan Qing, not deigning himself to do it.

Nalan Qing and Qing Shui walked out of the hall and toward Nalan Qing's hall. They reached their destinations not long after. The hall's main doors read "Qing Palace".

Upon walking in, there was a courtyard leading to a hall. However, in the middle of the hall was a hallway that led to the back. On the side of the courtyard were various flowers and plants, the floor made of quartz steps. It was already evening. The quartz dispersed warm rays of light, which lit up the hall like the heavenly imperial palace.

With a jade-like beauty by his side, Qing Shui looked up and stared into space. There was a round moon, risen in all its bright glory. When he turned around to look at Nalan Qing, she, too, was mesmerized by the brilliance of the moon.

The moonlight was like water, dispersing endless rays of shining white light, making everything seem like a dream.

"Moonlight and a beauty. The night is young and I am not in the mood to sleep. How about we talk throughout the night? We can talk about life, talk about our aspirations..." Qing Shui smiled as he looked at Nalan Qing.

She blushed once again. After Qing Shui had cured her father, she was feeling a lot more optimistic. The stress and burdens were leaving her body, and her thoughts were gradually changing.

“Turns out you have such a glib tongue as well. Definitely not a good person,” Nalan Qing rebuked.

“Good and bad are only separated by a thin line. Today’s good may become tomorrow’s bad, and may return to good again. There are also big baddies and small baddies. Some are detestable, some are cute. Would you want me to turn bad?” Qing Shui smiled smugly.

Nalan Qing understood Qing Shui’s expression and could see where he was coming from. She actually laughed, letting out a light chuckle. It was unbelievably attractive. She then told Qing Shui, “I am just a widow with a horrible reputation that’s only gotten worse. You’re an eagle in the sky. With your wings extended, very quickly, you’d be able to soar. I’m grateful for you. If you’re interested in someone like me, I’m willing to be yours.”

Qing Shui was confused by her statement. He looked at her, “Do I look like the sort to just lust after your body?”

“No, I know you’re not. That’s not what I meant, but I’m...”

“You’re a heavenly jewel in my heart. Elder sister Qing, Young miss, little grandaunt, I’m not helping you in hopes of getting something in return. I don’t know if I feel that way, but if I fall in love with you, I’d pursue you till you become my wife. I never seek rewards when I actively help others, especially not in such a way. If I didn’t know that you were a virgin, I would’ve pounced on you with just that statement.”

Nalan Qing blushed even more. This rascal had said it so explicitly. What she had said before was indeed meant to probe his character.

“I’m sorry. Please don’t be angry. You’re a real man,” Nalan Qing said as she lightly tugged on Qing Shui’s sleeve.

“Alright. It’s fine if you were just testing me.” Qing Shui understood and gave her butt a light slap. It felt good and bouncy.

He was caught up by the moment, purely out of habit. He rubbed his nose and awkwardly said, “I wasn’t trying to take advantage of you. It was just how I used to tease the women at home...”

Nalan Qing was not very mad, just slightly shocked. She glared at Qing Shui, “That’s a great domestic disciplining method.”

Qing Shui felt even more embarrassed and awkward, “Why don’t you do the same to me?”

“Go to hell!” Nalan Qing got to see the shameless side of him.

However, she still laughed, thinking of how they had barely met and how they were now. Even though their relationship took a strange turn and how this man was so shameless, she didn’t dislike this. Instead, she was slightly happy.

“Let’s sleep there tonight,” Qing Shui said as he looked around and realized there were quite a few rooms.

Nalan Qing naturally heard the error in his sentence, but chose to ignore it, saying "I'll help you find a room."

"Is your room big?" Qing Shui said as he walked.

"Don't even dream about it!" Nalan Qing said scornfully.

"Miss, get your mind out of the gutter. I'm just asking how big your room is." Qing Shui laughed.

"It's your thoughts that are dirty." Nalan Qing had never been mocked in such a way before. Being near Qing Shui, she said things she had never said before. It was a new experience for her. Both her brain and her emotions were being assaulted, and her heartstrings tugged at.

Could this be the sensation of falling in love...?

Chapter 2354 - Beiyuan Clan Found Out

Qing Shui felt that Nalan Qing was pure and irreproachable. Her stance toward other people was very cold. She was a widow and looked very mature, so much that Qing Shui felt that for this type of woman to become lovely and charming, it would require a lot of time and effort. It might even be impossible since it was difficult to change someone's character.

Thus many people felt fulfillment at turning a cold woman into a charming and bubbly one.

Nalan Qing's current somewhat happy and somewhat angry look struck Qing Shui especially hard. This woman may not be as cold as Tantai Lingyan, but she wasn't inferior in any way. Tantai Lingyan had a beautiful and enviable type of cold. Nalan Qing, on the other hand, had an indifference under the coldness facade. An indifference towards everything. This made many people unable to act naturally around her and thus severely affecting their emotions.

"Alright, alright. Even if I'm dirty, could you give me a chance to be clean? You can't just keep calling me dirty for no reason. At least tell me how I can make up for it!" Qing Shui said happily.

"Cleanse your mind!" Nalan Qing did not even realize that her tone was different from before.

Qing Shui could tell, but he wouldn't call her out for fear of her embarrassment. She had very thin skin, so it was best to let her realize it herself. It wouldn't take long. Maybe she had already realized but didn't want to go back to normal.

However, in the end, Nalan Qing still brought Qing Shui to her bedroom as her bedroom was close to Qing Shui's. It was just 2 bedrooms in a big palace.

It was not Qing Shui's first time entering a girl's bedroom. There was nothing special, as it was newly decorated. It was also Nalan Qing's first time entering since she had not lived here in a long time.

The room was clean. Spotless, in fact. It felt remarkably pure and clean. The couch, bed, and beddings were all snow white. Though the color was dull, it did not affect the aesthetic, the room still looked good.

After an uneventful night, Qing Shui started to cure the Nalan Clan the next day. He realized that only some of them were suffering from Immortal Powder. Most weren't even affected. Even if it was not

Immortal Powder, it was a terrifying poison as the person who made the poison was highly skilled. If Qing Shui did not have the Heavenly Vision technique, there would be no way to rid them of the poison.

They managed to save some time on getting rid of the poison but it was still true that the Nalan clan's strong warriors were all poisoned. The person who did this had extraordinary skill, being able to silently poison Shui Huang and a bunch of strong warriors.

This had nothing to do with luck. Though poison masters were highly advantaged, this was within a certain realm of strength. Qing Shui could see through the Water Emperor's strength, and in the end, powerful warriors had their own methods for resisting poison. Poison itself wasn't a crutch to overcome absolute differences. Poison masters could rank in the formidability leaderboards, but couldn't sweep the top spots with these flaws.

However, Qing Shui was very interested in this poison master, as it couldn't be some no-name. Whoever this poison master was would probably have unlimited prospects in the future.

Three days had passed without any major incidents. Qing Shui had cured several of the Water Emperor's strongest experts. The Beiyuan clan waited outside for Qing Shui and Nalan Qing as they didn't dare to involve the imperial palace.

It was not that they did not dare, but more like there was no need to. They just needed to wait patiently. The Divinity Scattering Powder and other poisons would quickly take effect, removing all obstacles and worries for the future.

Shui Huang had regained his former powers during this period of time, his strength now at around 4.5 trillion Daos, slightly beating out Qing Shui's— who was at 4 trillion Daos.

Nalan Qing was not poisoned and her abilities were considered good amongst the younger generation. Certainly, a force to be reckoned with. However, she couldn't match up with the older experts such as the poisoned experts in the Nalan Clan, each with 2.5 trillion Daos or more of strength.

Qing Shui recognized that their opponents wouldn't be weak, perhaps not any weaker than the Nalan Clan. Even worse was the fact that the Beiyuan Clan weren't alone in this coalition of tens of powers.

Another three people were cured today; two men came to find Qing Shui for drinks. They were roughly the same age as Qing Shui. Even Qing Shui did not know if they were older than he was. This was because they were Nalan Qing's brothers, Nalan Jin and Nalan Kang.

They were Nalan Qing's younger brothers and were grateful for Qing Shui's help. Though they guessed about Qing Shui and Nalan Qing's relationship, they didn't touch on that subject.

Seeing their sister happy was all they wanted, which was why they hoped that this man would become their brother-in-law. Him being a doctor was just a plus. This was the first time that their sister had ever indicated any interest in a man.

Qing Shui had saved the entire Nalan clan so the Nalan brothers had long treated Qing Shui as a family member. There was nothing that they would not do to repay Qing Shui.

Qing Shui felt that these two guys were not bad. Though much weaker than Nalan Qing, their strength was still passable. Qing Shui didn't judge them by their strength, but by their character.

“Brother-in-law...” Nalan Kang accidentally called out.

Qing Shui was stunned for a moment. Nalan Qing’s shy, flustered voice rang, “Nalan Kang, speak any more nonsense and I’ll beat you up.”

“Hehe, let’s drink,” Nalan Kang laughed and said.

Qing Shui was happy drinking with them, but he would turn to look at Nalan Qing from time to time.

“What are you looking at?” Nalan Qing said curtly as she glared at him.

“Elder sister Qing, you’re peerlessly graceful and elegant. Why can’t people look at you?” Qing Shui drank some wine. The presence of good wine and a beautiful woman gave him a good feeling.

Nalan Qing didn’t reply but found it strange that she felt something special whenever she heard a compliment from him. Perhaps she really was falling for him...

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The Beiyuan Clan!

“What? Nalan Jian has been cured?” Beiyuan Cao stood up from his chair, face filled with all sorts of rage.

There were many people below but the one who answered was an old man. He wore a black top with a white skeleton sewn onto it. As thin as firewood, he gave off a cold, pallid aura.

“Yes. The Divinity Scattering Powder has no antidote. Even I cannot revert it.” The old man said in disbelief.

“Then how? Did you see something wrong?” Beiyuan Cao asked, not wanting to accept the truth.

“I’m certain of my sightings. He must have had used some kind of treasure or medicinal pill. However, even if it was a treasure or medicinal pill, it wouldn’t definitely cure him. This is really puzzling.”

Chapter 2355 - Assassination, They Underestimated Qing Shui

“Ghost King, what are we supposed to do now?” Beiyuan Cao asked, his question full of unease.

The strength of the Nalan Clan still made Beiyuan Cao fearful. At their height, the Beiyuan Clan could only rely on external experts to resist them. As for the other local clans and powers, they all took the Beiyuan Clan as their leader.

“Find out all the powerful people that the Nalan Clan has recruited. We have to get rid of them. If not, there is a high possibility that our efforts will go to waste.” The old man’s ghastly eyes shone with extra gloominess.

“Tai Long, investigate. Try to look for any strange occurrences in the Nalan Clan, and don’t leave out a single clue,” Beiyuan Cao ordered.

A middle-aged man suddenly stood up, “I will go immediately!”

This concerned the fate of the clan, so everyone was very forthcoming. The Ghost King came from a very prominent sect in another domain. He had been kicked out of his sect, but managed to become a supreme expert on his own, despite his inability to return.

He was always at the Beiyuan Clan's house and was treated as a distinguished guest. He lived a good life with them and had also done many things for the Beiyuan Clan in the past few years, allowing the clan to prosper and become one of the strongest, just under the Nalan Clan. There were hopes of replacing them as the Water Nation's hegemon.

They were but a stone's throw away from succeeding. Yet, such a disaster had occurred. This was naturally a severe mental blow to the entire clan.

As such, it was necessary to investigate the case of the Water Emperor's curing and whether it was intentional or unintentional. If they allowed the Nalan Clan to counterattack, they would be done for.

As time passed, Qing Shui became more and more relaxed. The number of powerful individuals in the Nalan Clan gradually increased, while the pressure on him became smaller and smaller. Now that he had cured the members of the Nalan Clan, battling against the Beiyuan Clan would not require much effort. However, whether or not he had to play a role in the battle, only time could tell.

Today, after treating many patients, Nalan Qing and Qing Shui went on the streets for a shopping spree. The current street was special in that no carriages were allowed. Everyone had to travel on foot.

This was not the first time that both of them had gone shopping together. The pedestrian street was also called "couple street". The name came from the fact that there were many couples milling about, lovingly holding hands, with arms around each other's waists. The people there were all relatively younger, and this was the first time both of them had come to this street together.

Qing Shui was fine with coming here to Pedestrian Street, or rather, Couple Street. It was not Qing Shui's first time there, but it was Nalan Qing's first time coming here alone with a man. She, naturally, felt slightly flustered. Many people around them were all being intimate. There were even some couples brazenly kissing.

The atmosphere was similar to the past world's, or maybe even more open.

"Qing Shui, let's have a change of location, shall we?" Nalan Qing said stiffly.

"Why? Isn't this place nice and quiet?" Qing Shui answered with a slight smile on his face.

Qing Shui took a good look at the surroundings, before an expression of understanding washed over his face. He grabbed her small palm and said, "Sorry, I overlooked how you felt."

Nalan Qing was a bit panicked, but it was with more disbelief that she glanced at Qing Shui. She thought she heard wrong, but she knew that she did nothing wrong. She only underestimated this man's shamelessness.

She tried to pull her hand back twice, but to no avail, "We aren't even in a relationship. You're not allowed to hold my hand."

Qing Shui sheepishly smiled, "I'm here all alone, but you have your family and loved ones here... Can't you spare me a bit of warmth?"

Nalan Qing was at a loss for words, her heartbeat starting to race. Previously, during the meal, he had held her hand, but it was only for a short while. This time, she'd been caught firmly by him. She felt so nervous that her palms began to sweat.

"You look nervous." Qing Shui grinned at her.

"You wish. I'll just pretend that I'm pulling along a pet." Nalan Qing avoided his gaze, but her face was flushed red.

Qing Shui was surprised by this cold-looking lady's shyness. At that moment, the soft and tender skin of her cheek was a deep shade of red, and it was inexplicably attractive. The sight of a beautiful lady blushing was sublime, igniting a fire in people's souls with fatal attraction.

Qing Shui held her tender hand which was as warm as jade. He used a finger to lightly trace her palm, causing Nalan Qing to tremble slightly. She sternly warned him, "If you continue your sneaky actions, you're no longer allowed to hold my hand."

There were fewer and fewer people the further they went.

As they walked past a small stall, an old woman warmly smiled and called out to them, "Both of you! Your wife is very beautiful. This hairpin would surely suit her!"

The hairpin was white in color and crystal clear, bright and transparent like a jade. A feeling in Qing Shui's gut told him that this object was not common. In fact, it seemed to be pretty rare. If Qing Shui had found this on his own, he probably would have bought it. However, it was the question of the old woman holding it up and trying to sell it.

"How much is it?" Qing Shui reached out to grab the hairpin while asking.

"It can't be paid with money, only with your life!"

The old woman began her sentence smiling, but suddenly yelled out at the end. The hairpin she was holding in her hand was immediately shot towards Qing Shui's throat.

Everything happened too fast, but it was too bad that the old woman had underestimated Qing Shui's skills. Looking at the white hairpin now, it seemed to be quite a sharp weapon. Qing Shui calmly reached out, and gave her wrist a hard pinch.

Ka-cha!

At the same time, he pinned down her Quchi Acupoint, causing her whole body to be limp. At this moment, passersby around them began to scatter, but a few busybodies still stood there watching.

Qing Shui simply waved his hand and the old woman transformed into a middle-aged woman who paled and stared fiercely at Qing Shui.

"Answer me. Who are you?" Qing Shui lightly questioned.

"You can just kill me. I'll never disclose who I am," The woman coldly scoffed.

"Why do you want to kill me?" Qing Shui continued interrogating.

“It is futile to continue asking. I’ll never tell you anyway.”

“Let me take a guess. When I first arrived here, I did not offend anyone. If I have to point fingers at someone, it would be the Beiyuan Clan. I don’t care who you are, but I’ll be classifying you under the Beiyuan Clan.” Qing Shui smirked.

“Whatever.” the woman said, her expressions calm.

“Since you dare to come and kill me, you’ll have to undergo punishment by me. Oh, how shall I punish you? Sister Nalan Qing, do you have any ideas?” Qing Shui did not loosen the firm grip he had on Nalan Qing’s hand.

“I have no idea,” Nalan Qing truthfully said.

“This woman is slightly older. If I abolish her cultivation powers, strip her naked and throw her clothes across the streets with beggars, don’t you think the beggars will be grateful for me?” Qing Shui said with all seriousness.

Nalan Qing shivered, but the woman was even more afraid. She glared coldly at Qing Shui, “You’re a monster.”

“I’ve never been soft on people who wanted me dead. Since you don’t want to cooperate with me, why must I let you off so easily?” Qing Shui smiled, before reaching out and abolishing her cultivation powers.

“If you let me go, how far will I be allowed to go?” The woman was facing a strong dilemma on the inside. If she disclosed information, she would surely die. If she did not say anything, she would also die. If she disclosed information and was allowed to flee, there might still be a small chance of surviving.

Qing Shui thought for a while, “If what you say is really true, and is useful to me, I promise you that I will ensure your safety. However, if you lie to me, I will show you what it means to be better off dead. I have a technique that will torture you but make sure you won’t die, suffering a year yearning for death.”

Chapter 2356 - On The Verge

Though Qing Shui’s words were mostly filled with empty threats, he was undeniably dangerous and the woman did not have a deathwish. Through gritted teeth she said, “You guessed correctly. I’m from the Beiyuan clan.”

Qing Shui frowned, “I’m not satisfied with your answer. Don’t patronize me like a fool!”

“Alright, I can offer you some information, but it’s not a lot,” The woman continued talking.

“Shoot!”

“I’m here today to kill you because you were a suspicious figure. I did not expect you to be this powerful. The Ghost King guessed that you were the one who got rid of the Water Emperor’s poison,” the woman said while looking at Qing Shui.

This news was very important. The opponent had already known that the Water Emperor’s poison had been cured, but did not know if it was cured by someone or cured by accident.

“Who is this Ghost King?” Qing Shui asked.

“The Ghost King is a powerful poison master who has been with the Beiyuan clan for a long time. Rumor claims that he was from another domain and is a big reason why the Beiyuan Clan enjoys its position today.”

Qing Shui realized this woman knew quite a lot. Seems like there was an advantage to being older. The woman must have been with the Beiyuan clan for quite some time.

“Who are you?” Qing Shui asked the woman with a sharp look.

“I’m just one of the Ghost King’s playthings...”

Qing Shui looked at the woman. She was not great looking, but not ugly either. Though middle-aged, her body still looked good. After all, cultivators’ bodies were always well preserved.

“Tell me about the Ghost King. You should understand him well,” Qing Shui did not want to continue talking about the woman.

The woman sighed, “Understanding him, I think it’s an impossible task. He’s a monstrosity, a pervert, and a devil. He is temperamental and unpredictable, lecherous and likes to test his poison on those around him. He looks just like a ghost. Skinny, a pair of deep sunken eyes, and surrounded by an ominous aura.”

“Is his poison very strong?” Qing Shui was more concerned about this.

“Very powerful, in fact. He was a forsaken disciple from a powerful clan in another domain, but progressed via self-teaching. It could be said that his Poison Technique has reached unfathomable depths and his entire body is poisonous.” The way the woman talked about the Ghost King seemed excessive. She must have been tortured quite a bit.

“Alright. You can decide to either leave on your own, or follow me. Do not regret your decision,” Qing Shui said, laughing.

“I can leave already?” The woman was surprised.

“Yes.” Qing Shui answered again.

The woman gritted her teeth, “I’ll follow you. I’ll die if I leave. I’ve also had enough of their torture.”

Qing Shui nodded his head, “Good. Return to the imperial palace with us. It’s much safer there. Don’t worry. We’ll guarantee your safety. Once everything is over, you’ll have your freedom back. Your life will be in your hands to chase your own happiness.”

The woman felt slightly aggrieved upon hearing Qing Shui. It had been lonely for her for the past few years, alone and miserable.

Qing Shui and company returned just in time to see an angry Water Emperor. The Beiyuan Clan had already seen that the Nalan Clan weren’t soft and weak, but still dared to collaborate with dozens of powers to challenge the Nalan Clan right outside the imperial palace.

They declared war on the Nalan Clan, but not the Water Emperor.

Declaring war on the Water Emperor was treason, but declaring war on the Nalan clan was competition. Every country had competition, which allowed for development.

“Nalan Jian, you stand with the Water Emperor. And yet, you hoard resources, not caring about others’ development, only caring about yourself. Today, the Beiyuan Clan shall compete with you. If we win, we want the resources to be shared. If we lose, we will admit defeat and you’ll be able to do whatever you want to punish me.” Beiyuan Cao shouted towards the palace.

Upon hearing Beiyuan Cao, Qing Shui knew he was a sly fox. It had always been winner takes all since ancient times but it seemed as though Beiyuan Cao would stand to gain too little from winning. And him losing meant being punished by any means; it seemed too magnanimous. If he had really lost to the Nalan Clan, they could not go too far as they would then be seen as petty, considering the Nalan clan now held the position of the Water Emperor.

The Water Emperor should be magnanimous.

If Beiyuan Cao’s side won, whether it would simply be a problem of sharing resources would be difficult to say. The winner rules. What they said and what they did could be different.

The Water Emperor raised an eyebrow, “This Beiyuan Cao... They already knew that the Nalan clan has recovered and yet, they still dare to challenge us. They must have some backers. What could they have behind them?”

However, the Water Emperor still had to accept the challenge because it was the Beiyuan Clan. Typically, only the top three in the country were qualified to challenge the Water Emperor’s capabilities and obtain his position. Those who were not on the top three in terms of capability were not qualified to.

The Nalan clan, led by the Water Emperor, appeared at the front gates of the imperial palace. This was the battlefield. This was where they would compete. It was very vast and had a special protection area in order to prevent severe damage to the place.

The Water Emperor looked at the Beiyuan Clan and the ten plus powerhouses behind them. “Beiyuan Cao, this is between your Beiyuan Clan and my Nalan Clan. You’re conspiring against the state.”

The Water Emperor was very loud, his voice could be heard throughout Crystal City.

“They are here for moral support and to help with formations. Your Nalan Clan is all alone. Obviously, the problem here lies with you,” Beiyuan Cao said, naturally denying that he was trying to get as much help as possible.

“Hahaha, Beiyuan Cao, you really think that no one knew about your clan’s poisoning of our clan. None of the powerful people were spared. If not for an expert’s appearance to help cure the poison, we would all be dead.”

“Nalan Jian, you’re the Water Emperor. Do not make unfounded allegations. What are you trying to do by slandering my Beiyuan Clan?” Beiyuan Cao naturally denied.

“If you dare to do, you should dare to admit. You have done many immoral things these past few years. The massacre of the Chen clan, a clan of three hundred and eighty all poisoned to death. The Zhong clan’s third brother’s lineage, in line to take over the clan, yet disappearing overnight...”

Beiyuan Cao turned pale. There were people from the Zhong Clan behind him. The Zhong clan was now of another lineage, one which had good relations with the Beiyuan Clan. It did not feel good having it revealed.

Members of the aristocracy had nothing if not enemies, but nobody wanted the reputation of an unscrupulous, ruthless schemer who worked with outsiders to ruin brothers.

“Nalan Jian, what do you mean by this? All these crimes pushed onto me, what evidence do you have? Are you trying to sow discord? You’re the Water Emperor and yet, you have not done anything for all these things. What were you doing then? It can’t be that you were hiding these things? Would it harm you or those around you?”

Beiyuan Cao would never admit it.

“Justice lies in one’s heart. The country is vast. Even though I am the Water Emperor, I couldn’t possibly attend to each and every matter. Since this happened amongst you dukes, then let me help the deceased seek justice,” The Water Emperor said coldly.

“Then let’s see what you are capable of.” Beiyuan Cao also said coldly, staring at the Water Emperor with a deathly gaze.

Chapter 2357 - The Water Emperor VS. The Ghost King

After all was said and done, strength spoke the loudest.

Qing Shui and Nalan Qing stood in the middle, occasionally feeling the movements of the crowd around them. Very quickly, a barely visible layer of light appeared, shrouding the entire area. At this moment, this area had already become an independent space. The sound here will not be transmitted out and the energy here will not spread outside.

“Nalan Jian, you are still as strong as ever. However, you are wrong to think that you only need to use strength to suppress us. We also have some strong individuals here that are the same level as you,” Bei Yuan Cao said, his smile full of deceit. It also seemed cunning, just like a fox.

“Who is the one responsible for the poisoning?” The Water Emperor was the nation’s emperor. Though he was temperamental at times, he could be calm in needed times and would not fret over small things. Moreover, the situation now was a lot better than before.

“How was your poisoning cured? Is it convenient to talk about it now?” A gloomy voice boomed out.

Following the voice, an old man walked out, all clad in black. He was thin and bony, with a pair of deep eyes—eyes which were layers of sullenness over sullenness. His inhuman-like appearance left everyone shocked.

An image of a white skeleton was embroidered on his black clothes. It was incomparably strange. His hands held a pure white bone weapon.

“Looks like you are the one responsible for the poisoning. What a great method!” The Water Emperor gave him a sharp look. So it was this man who harmed him, so much so that his family was almost destroyed and he himself almost killed. He would be lying if he said he did not hate him. He had already made up his mind: This man was going to die.

“I was not successful in my first attempt. I can tell that someone cured you of your poisoning. I’m curious as to what kind of person could cure the wrath of the Immortal Powder? I really want to have a look.” The Ghost King said to the Water Emperor.

“I’ll wait till you’re on your deathbed. Then, I shall let you know,” The Water Emperor replied indifferently before pulling out his golden sword, which was also known as the Emperor’s Sword.

This weapon was a relatively good one, and could only be used after one had gained the title of Emperor. The power it wielded was not bad, and could be classified as a weapon of imperial power. This imperial power was not the kind that could destroy lands and wipe out all existence. It simply commanded the respect of all.

It was as if the Ghost King had no qualms about the Water Emperor. He said lightly, “I’ll just capture you first and we’ll talk later.”

As soon as he finished speaking, he waved the bone in his hand and like a ghost, he advanced quickly before disappearing.

Many people could not see him, including Qing Shui. However, in the blink of an eye, Qing Shui’s Heavenly Vision Technique was activated and he was able to locate where the Ghost King was.

Hah!

The Water Emperor gave a loud shout with an untouchable regal aura. A mystical force enveloped the surroundings. The Ghost King, however, was already three meters away from the Water Emperor. He used this chance to raise the bone in his hand and strike.

A simple blow, but the effects were immediate. So quick that many could not keep up with their eyes.

Ding!

The sword in the Emperor’s hand had blocked this hit, but that bone weapon made of god-knows-what was too hard and strong, remaining undamaged despite a direct collision. The Ghost King’s arm was retracted for a brief moment before extending out again, waving his bone weapon for yet another hit.

The hit was direct, but it was as if the power of the blow became even stronger. It did not seem to be any simple bone, but one that could collapse the heavens.

Heavenly Dao!

The Ghost King’s Heavenly Dao Realm was stronger than that of the Water Emperor’s. He had used this to suppress the Water Emperor, guaranteeing his position of invincibility and the inevitable defeat of the Water Emperor.

Qing Shui frowned. He thought that helping them to cure the poison was enough and everything would be a smooth journey from there. Looking at the circumstances now, it seemed like his plans could not keep up with the changes.

The sword in the Water Emperor's hands suddenly erupted with a strong halo of light—the Emperor's power.

A strong wave of power burst from the Emperor's body and he seemed to grow in size. Most importantly, the Emperor now resembled a small mountain, reducing the distance between the Ghost King and him.

All emperors and kings had a unique regality about them, able to negate the effects of suppression. Though this effect was constant and not exceptional, it was very effective in leveling the playing field. The downside was that it could never be used to gain an advantage.

Thump... Thump...

The initial clear and melodious collisions turned dull and the opposing parties fought till they were on equal footing.

The Ghost King's bone weapon became a shadow that loomed over the whole sky. Like a fast-flowing river, it rushed to toward the Water Emperor. If it was Qing Shui, he could use his Heavenly Vision Technique to see what was approaching him. However, the Water Emperor did not have this power. Nonetheless, if the Water Emperor could reach this level, he could probably find his own way to block the incoming attack.

Close the sword!

The Water Emperor's sword immediately retracted before the sharp tip protruded out, causing the surroundings to be blinded by a bright light. The light surrounded the Emperor and enveloped him. At the same time, the bone weapon tried to deliver a hit toward the Emperor but clashed with the Emperor's sword instead, casting a shimmering golden ray of light.

Qing Shui knew that both parties were now on equal footing and it would not be easy to distinguish a winner or a loser. Both of them were beings that had unsurmountable experience.

"Water Emperor, you forgot that I am a master of poison. If I use poisoning techniques, I would easily defeat you." the Ghost King taunted his opponent.

"Bring it on!" The Water Emperor's eyes were shining brilliantly. He was not scared. He might even be excited.

"Then you'll get a taste of this Magic Fog!" Right after he spoke, a cruel smile extended across his face. The surroundings then turned foggy and a poisonous-smelling gas rapidly diffused in the air.

To be on the safe side, Qing Shui cast an Area Dominance shield on the Water Emperor.

It was still foggy, but the Water Emperor seemed to be in a pure ground; the fog would immediately dissipate upon contacting him.

Seeing this, the Ghost King was in a state of shock. Even though he knew that the Water Emperor was mighty, he himself had his own set of skills. He waved his bone weapon and sent a long skeleton dragon hovering around them, exuding chilly bouts of air.

A crystal-like armor then appeared on the Water Emperor's body, making him greater and more powerful. A sea started to form around him. He was also gradually getting stronger and stronger.

The strength and capacity of the Water nation!

The Ghost King's face became solemn before taking out a pill and swallowing it. The tooth necklace on his chest started to emit a bright white light. This was a necklace made up out of teeth of many different beastly creatures. The different teeth contained the essence of each creature, each with their own unique skills. This necklace was made up of a hundred different teeth. A special way was used to string them together to provide the wearer with the essence of the creatures and to provide the wearer with temporary strength.

The skeleton dragon was flying around, roaring non-stop at the Water Emperor.

There was also a massive Water Dragon beside the Water Emperor that sprayed clouds. It kept colliding with the skeleton dragon, spraying out giant torrents of water.

The Water Emperor could get replenishment from the "large sea" below him while the Ghost King could do the same using his tooth necklace, and had the aid of pills. Once again, the battle was in a deadlock. In the middle, the Ghost King had tried using his poisoning techniques, but none of them had worked. This made him feel uneasy.

The Water Emperor had on him stashes of strong antidotes. Even though the antidote pills were small, they were extremely effective. Additionally, he had the Area Dominance shield that Qing Shui had cast on him. This had rendered the Ghost King's poisons useless.

Chapter 2358 - The Deity's Decree and the Secret Mystical Technique

Giant waves were formed. Water splashing everywhere, water droplets penetrating steel, the sound of the wind whistling filled the air, sharp enough to penetrate gold.

The tooth necklace emitted a ring of white light, blocking the water waves. But the Water Emperor's armor was not just any ordinary armor. It was now a desperate fight of vitality.

"The battle is going to end right now. I'm not going to play around with you anymore. I'll send you off!"

The Ghost King took a pale gold "Deity's Decree" and hit it, making the surroundings suddenly become silent. After he threw this decree out, a gold light appeared and shrouded the entire area.

All of a sudden, everyone felt their own strength drop, their bodies as heavy as lead.

"Water Emperor, if I kill you now, wouldn't it be as easy as flipping my palm?" The Ghost King snickered guiltlessly.

Qing Shui's brows furrowed. This decree was extremely powerful, as his own powers were diminished by half. Fortunately, it seemed that he could quickly recover; the Battle God Halo power that was previously used was still present, which made Qing Shui sigh in relief.

Still, the Water Emperor was panicking on the inside. It would be too much a waste if he lost the battle like this.

“This is the Deity’s decree. Even though it only carries a hint of divine will, it is enough. I wouldn’t have used it randomly, as it is far too precious. For you to have resisted me so, your death has already been decided.”

“Beiyuan Cao, can’t you see? At best, the Beiyuan family will be mere puppets. You’re just giving everything up on a silver platter.” the Water Emperor chided Beiyuan Cao.

“The Ghost King’s aim is not to conquer the Water Nation. This is merely the first step. We aim to unite all nations to form a greater and stronger country. When that happens, the Beiyuan family will gain many benefits,” Beiyuan Cao said unhurriedly.

“That’s enough. You’ve rambled on for long enough. It’s time for your whole clan to die, but I have to say I really like your daughter.” The Ghost King chuckled with a blatant disregard for others.

“Hey, you’re really disgusting on top of being hideous. I don’t even want to know who accidentally gave birth to you...” Qing Shui didn’t want to speak, but he wanted to help the Water Emperor. He didn’t think that this old ghost would suddenly get Nalan Qing involved in his ugly mess.

The Ghost King was very ugly. Even though it had something to do with his cultivation techniques, he was ugly to begin with. He hated being called ugly by others the most. In his youth, a woman whom he desired didn’t like him for his appearance and he had killed her in a fit of rage.

Now that he was older, he was not as crazy, but this kind of deep-rooted stigma did not change. Now listening to someone not just call him ugly, but hideous, made anger pool inside him. He set his sights on Qing Shui, “I will make sure you know what being dead is while still living, and make you become a creature more disgusting than I am.

“I’ll just say it. You by yourself isn’t enough. I can simply annihilate you. How long do you think your decree will last?” Qing Shui snickered.

“Half an hour. No, just fifteen minutes will do. It’s time to die!”

The Ghost King immediately waved his bone weapon and charged toward Qing Shui.

The Water Emperor naturally wanted to intercept the Ghost King but before he could do so, Qing Shui speedily launched his Divine Soldier Soaring Blade, while applying Emperor’s Qi onto the Ghost King.

Following a loud crash, both parties flew backward in silence.

If the Water Emperor had taken that violent blow, he would have gotten seriously injured or maybe even died, but now he was all fine and did not sustain any injuries. He was wearing a big smile on his face as he turned to Qing Shui. He was fearful of taking that blow, but the impact on his body was just a hollow feeling. It was like biting one’s gums and sucking in a breath, or hitting oneself on the chest. Although the hit sounded unpleasant, it was not actually painful.

Art of Pursuing!

The Ghost King had already felt his strength and speed diminish after battling with the Water Emperor but upon getting hit by the Art of Pursuing, his strength had diminished even more by threefold. He felt like his body was as heavy as lead. Not only that, all of his previous attacks did not seem to have harmed the Water Emperor in any way. Could it be that the decree had no effect?

It didn't make any sense. The decree had taken effect. He could clearly sense the Water Emperor's strength drop and yet, he easily blocked his own blow. The Ghost King just couldn't understand as he stood there, stunned by the fact.

The Water Emperor did not proactively attack. His attacks now would not harm the opponent so attacking was of no use. He simply waited for the decree to wear off to decide the victor.

Now it was the Ghost King's turn to panic. He didn't expect that using the Deity's Decree would result in such a situation.

The Ghost King did not give up and summoned another skeleton dragon, commanding it to fly toward the Water Emperor. His bone weapon also cast a ghastly shadow that loomed over the whole sky. Even though poison was his expertise, using battle techniques in a fight was not inferior to using poison.

The Water Emperor was now using all of his strength to block the blows. The more hits he received, the stronger he felt. Even though it seemed as though he was slowly retreating in defeat, his body could still endure it without suffering any injuries.

The more hits the Ghost King delivered, the stranger he felt, as if his insides were a mess. Time trickled by slowly. If he were unable to defeat them in the period during the time when the Deity's Decree was effective, it would be impossible to bring down anyone after it had worn off.

The Ghost King halted for a bit. The bone in his hand eventually turned green while his whole body had gradually turned black as coal; his body started emitting clouds of black smoke. He looked like a giant metallic lump and his body was no longer as scrawny as before. It was now well-built and muscular.

"You all will die today!"

Devilish Transformation!

The Water Emperor's expression immediately changed. At that moment, Qing Shui was also quite surprised. This was a secret mystical technique, where he could temporarily defy the heavens. His attacks were even bestowed with armor-piercing properties.

Die!

Once again, the Ghost King threw his black bone weapon at the Water Emperor. This attack seemed like it contained some sort of terrorizing abilities. Even though the Water Emperor had barely managed to avoid the hit, it still impacted his shoulder.

Ka-cha!

The sound of bones breaking could be heard and the Emperor could be seen flying across the room, blood spewing out of his mouth. His eyes also shone with a hint of powerlessness. The Ghost King was too strong. The difference in their strengths had now been pulled apart greatly again.

Boom!

Just as the Ghost King was about to deliver another attack to the Water Emperor, a giant creature standing at around five to six meters stood in between them.

The black lumpy creature was shaped like a human. It looked like a carved wooden puppet, but had its own sentience.

This was the Divine Battle Puppet that Qing Shui had gained.

At this moment, the whole area's powers were diminished by half, but Qing Shui immediately gathered the Battle God Halo and other techniques, to use them on the Divine Battle Puppet. Not long after, the strength of the puppet rapidly increased. It was not inferior to the Ghost King. If the Ghost King did not have the Deity's Decree, he would have been easily defeated. Even now they were not inferior to him.

Chapter 2359 - The Powerful Divine Battle Puppet. Killed

The Ghost King did not even consider that this Divine Battle Puppet would pose as a threat. If it was powerful, it would have already been used previously. There was nothing on the surface of this big stone that suggested that it possessed any meaningful power.

The Ghost King used his powerful bone weapon and hurled it at the puppet. A trail of grey smoke was left behind the flying bone, its speed already exceeding the shadow.

This battle area was bigger than many others. Even the almighty Ghost King would be unable to carve a black hole in the ground, and the stars and moon were unable to be seen.

Berserk Dragon Fist!

The Divine Battle Puppet was directly controlled by Qing Shui. It launched the Berserk Dragon Fist to combat the bone weapon.

Bang!

A deafening sound shook the skies. The puppet was pushed backward but the Ghost King was also forced to retreat some distance. The puppet's Berserk Dragon Fist could not match Qing Shui's. Otherwise, one punch would be all it took for the Ghost King to be killed. Still, they were even.

At this point, the Ghost King was in a thorough mess. The demonification was supposed to be his trick to wipe everyone out but now he only had several minutes left till it wore out. Furthermore, after using this trick, there would be a time period of weakness where his bodily strength would be halved. His strength would only be recovered after twelve hours. Moreover, this technique could only be used once in three days.

The extent of which he had trained his Devilish Transformation was still not enough. If he had reached a higher level, he would not have a period of weakness, and the time which he was in the Devilish state would be longer. The frequency that he could use this technique would also be increased.

But now was not the time to think about such a matter. Instead, he should be thinking about what he was going to do when time ran out. The opponents would never let him off the hook and the stone

creature was unexpectedly strong. All this was still happening despite him using the Deity's Decree. Had he not used it...

Upon seeing the Ghost King's eyeballs roll around as if he was pondering something, Qing Shui could already tell he was preparing to flee.

Qing Shui would never allow him to retreat. He used the Nine Palace Laws to confine the area while simultaneously controlling the Divine Battle Puppet to continue attacking the Ghost King, not allowing him to have a chance to catch his breath.

The advantage of this puppet was that it was like a killing machine, never tiring out unless Qing Shui's consciousness was gone.

Qing Shui didn't know how long the opponent could maintain this state, but he knew it wasn't for long. The more terrifying the technique used, the more restrictions it had. Previously seeing that the Ghost King was thinking of running away, it was obvious he wouldn't be able to sustain this much longer.

All of a sudden, a yellow Rune Seal appeared in the Ghost King's hands, his face showing fear and defeat.

"There's no use! You can't run away!" Qing Shui exclaimed.

At the same time, the Ghost King felt the Rune Seal in his hands slowly losing its effectiveness. This made him panic on the inside and caused him to cower in fear. Although his situation previously was dangerous, at least he felt that he could run away if things went wrong. Now, he realized he could not run.

This was the imperial palace's battle area, filled with boundless energy. However, to guard against special escape methods, confinement was necessary. Confining an area was supposedly a legendary ability, requiring a certain comprehension of the Heavenly Daos.

This realm was said to be merely a fable, with those able to touch upon this realm capable of killing others with just a thought. Seemingly only true gods could achieve this level as no one had ever seen such an existence.

Qing Shui's technique was the Nine Palace Laws. It was only a small law, and could only confine existences that were not as powerful as him. It was also a regional confinement, not allowing anyone to leave the Nine Palaces Region.

But a skill like this was already considered powerful. At that moment, the Ghost King was trembling with terror, sensing that he was very close to death.

The Divine Battle Puppet continuously attacked; the Berserk Dragon Fist was like a torrential downpour, showering punches non-stop. The Berserk Dragon Fist's power allowed the puppet's strength to be almost on equal footing as the Ghost King's, but comparing endurance, the puppet was many notches above.

Bam!

Perhaps due to the Ghost King's negligence, or Qing Shui's unsuppressed fist dao, the Ghost King was hit on the left shoulder and was sent flying.

Ka-cha!

The sound was very clear and brittle, signaling that the bone on his left shoulder was broken. The scene was a mess of blood and flesh. The Ghost King's eyes were ferocious, the bone weapon was suddenly sent flying towards the puppet's heart. Qing Shui immediately reacted fast, not faltering one bit as he sent a punch towards the bone weapon. It flew back toward the Ghost King's heart.

A metallic clashing sound, and then a dreary sound.

Puff!

The puppet's strong punch sent it returning to the Ghost King's heart, creating a gaping dent in his chest. Because the puppet's strength was too great, it had basically destroyed half of the Ghost King's body.

All was silent; all had ended.

The Divine Battle Puppet stood there like an invincible deity, causing the Beiyuan family to feel a mix of fear and respect. If it turned onto them, they would be helplessly massacred.

The Water Emperor was also in shock. He never thought that Qing Shui still had such a powerful card. Just how strong was this fellow? His strength was almost equivalent to that of the Water Nation's Guardian Beast, and this thought alone felt absurd.

"Water Emperor, do you want all these people to be killed?" Qing Shui asked at this moment.

He didn't speak loudly, but still loud enough for the Beiyuan Clan and members of other powerful families to hear him. All of them started to panic. They were now nothing more than fish on the chopping block.

"Water Emperor, we were wrong. We had no choice but to let it end up like this. Please forgive us, just this once!" A man from the Cheng Clan plead.

"Please, Water Emperor! We were also forced into this by the Beiyuan Clan." Once someone opened his mouth, the rest followed suit.

The Beiyuan family knew that there was nothing to be said. The Nalan family would never let them off the hook. If it were just a normal battle, it wouldn't be too big of an issue, but it was mainly due to the fact that the Ghost King had used dirty methods. There was a serious attempt to exterminate the Nalan Clan, so no mercy was expected.

This time, there were many strong individuals among their opponents. The Water Emperor was not planning to kill all of them, though of course he wouldn't let the Beiyuan Clan off the hook. As for the other families, he would cripple the crucial characters from the various clans, while letting others replace the previous dukes.

The battle had ended and this was Qing Shui's first time using the Divine Battle Puppet. Even though the rune had prevented him from exerting maximum strength, it was still overwhelmingly strong. If not for this puppet, it would be scary to think of how the battle might have developed. After all, it was easy for unexpected circumstances to occur.

Even though Qing Shui's demonic beasts had special powers, they were of little threat to the Ghost King. The Dragon Slaying Beast might be powerful but it was unable to break through the Ghost King's protective layer of white air. The beast might be invincible, but one could use some magic to bind or trap it.

The Dragon Slaying Beast was best suited for sneak attacks, able to instantly kill unprepared opponents.

As for the thread of the Dragon Spider, the estimate was that it would be unable to break the protective layer of air surrounding the Ghost King. The difference in strength between the weakened Dragon Spider and the Ghost King was too big. All tricks were nothing before absolute might.

The Blood Strengthening Pill could enhance the beasts' strengths, but pure-blood ancient beasts were difficult to encounter, and were ludicrously powerful. They could even claim Qing Shui's life.

Chapter 2360 - Sincerity, Divine Palace Moving to Crystal City

Things had calmed down and the Water Emperor quickly cleaned up the rest. Qing Shui, on the other hand, had nothing to do. He decided to simply relax for a few days, drink wine, tease women, live the good life.

The Water Emperor had treated Qing Shui many times in small family feasts. There were only so many of the Nalan family members, all of which were directly related to the Water Emperor. Qing Shui and Nalan Qing were also present. In the Water Emperor's eyes, Qing Shui was already his son-in-law.

However, Nalan Qing was still known as a widow, so to a certain extent, the Water Emperor and his family felt that it was an outmarriage. After all, Qing Shui was still so young, and more powerful that it seemed as though he was out of her league.

Qing Shui didn't propose while the Water Emperor dared not sanction a marriage either, as he didn't possess the qualifications. It wasn't a gap in status, but there were just too many complications.

Qing Shui always stayed in Nalan Qing's palace, being in contact with her from day to night. For such an exceptional person, he had seen many beauties. However, men are just like this, especially with no woman to manage them.

It was difficult to control urges once one became a man. Those men who wanted to satisfy their urges could hold it for a year or two. However, becoming a true man would make one's urges uncontrollable and even ruin lives.

This period of time made Nalan Qing very happy. The burden on her was gone and she was a lot more relaxed, with the world seeming much more pleasant.

"Qing Shui, I'm so happy!" Nalan Qing said to Qing Shui after looking at her surroundings and the blue sky.

"Yes, this is your third time saying it," Qing Shui said, smiling.

"I'm just happy. Why are you so irritated?" Nalan Qing glared at Qing Shui, displeased.

"How could I be irritated by you, you lustrous, lovely beauty. I can't even fall in love with you fast enough!" Qing Shui praised her.

Nalan Qing smiled with glee. She did not know when she got so close to him, and felt as though they were getting to know each other even more. However, every time she remembered she was a widow, she felt slightly depressed.

“What are you thinking about? Why are you so sad? Didn’t you just tell me that you were happy?” Qing Shui said, seeing the sadness in Nalan Qing’s eyes.

“Nothing. How long will you be staying here for?” Nalan Qing asked.

“Are you trying to get rid of me?! You can’t do this, darling. You can’t burn our bridge...” Qing Shui ranted on.

Nalan Qing looked at Qing Shui silently while he was blabbering on. This man, not only had he changed how he called her, he had also said somethings that had left her dumbfounded. She knew Qing Shui did it on purpose, and that he did not mean them. He was just joking and was just messing with her. Just for the way he addressed her...

“I’m not too sure, either. I might leave soon, or I might stay for a while longer,” Qing Shui replied with uncertainty.

“You’ve helped me so much. How could I ever repay you?” Nalan Qing said seriously to Qing Shui.

“If you take me as your friend then stop thinking about this.” Qing Shui laughed.

“You are my best friend!” Nalan Qing hurriedly replied.

“How good is best?” Qing Shui replied, smiling.

“I’m willing to give you my all, willingly, including my life,” Nalan Qing replied softly.

Qing Shui knew that she was serious about what she said. He understood her thoughts. She placed great meaning on debts of gratitude. He extended his arm and caressed her head and said, “Dummy, with me here, no one would ever dare to touch you.”

After he said this, he felt that his actions were slightly inappropriate. If Nalan Qing was a young girl, it would not have been that bad. However, though she was an inexperienced girl, she still had a mature personality, and should have been slightly older than Qing Shui. So it felt slightly inappropriate, and it made Qing Shui feel even stranger.

However, it was not only him who felt strange. It was the same for Nalan Qing. She had an even greater sense of an indescribable emotion, as if her feelings had been stirred. If it was in the past, she would not have had been able to imagine someone saying such things to her.

Qing Shui retracted his hand awkwardly. Nalan Qing, however, laughed and looked at Qing Shui. She now smiled from time to time, like the spring sun or white snow. It was especially stunning.

“You must keep your word!” Nalan Qing exclaimed.

“Of course!”

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Crystal City was the most beautiful place Qing Shui had ever seen. This was also one of the important reasons why Qing Shui decided to stay for a longer period.

Qing Shui now had to decide whether or not to settle on this place and move the Divine Palace here.

This problem in itself was quite messy. Here, Qing Shui's power could be said to be the best, but this city's Guardian Beast was slightly stronger. Strictly speaking, the Divine Battle Puppet could definitely fight evenly with the Crystal Dragon.

He could not be sure. He really wanted to know the Crystal Dragon's strength, then decide if he should settle down here.

To know the Crystal Dragon's power, he could only ask the Water Emperor. The Water Emperor's power had reached about 4.5 trillion Dao, similar to Qing Shui. There were countless of nations around, yet the Water Emperor was not at the peak of the Demon King Domain. This was another reason for hesitation.

He finally decided to settle here, since the atmosphere was simply superb. Furthermore, the Water Nation seemed to be linked to Qing Shui by fate.

The position was set in Crystal City, and the place was already bought, a gift by the Water Emperor. Qing Shui told the Water Emperor about his idea to temporarily move the Divine Palace here. If The Water Emperor didn't allow it, he wouldn't bother.

Contrary to his expectations, the Water Emperor happily accepted and even gave him a great location.

The Water Emperor had thought about it thoroughly. If Qing Shui had any hidden agenda towards the Water Nation, he would not be able to stop him anyway. Furthermore, the Nalan clan was indebted to Qing Shui.

When Qing Shui explained his thoughts, he was meticulous with his observations. He knew the Water Emperor had to accept his ideas. After all, Qing Shui had helped them with so much. However, he was very cautious about this. If the opposite party had any hidden reservations about the plan, Qing Shui would not force them. This world was so big, he chose the place just for the view.

Fortunately, the Water Emperor did not show any unwillingness, and even looked very happy.

The Divine Palace was positioned in Crystal city. However, it was far from the imperial palace. It was a fresh-looking nine-story pagoda, with a base the size of a football field, standing at an impressive 100 meters in height.

After a few days, Qing Shui used the Five elements Divine Flag to return, then bring everyone back here. A whole day was used to bring them to and fro. But Qing Shui could actually use just a moment to do so if he wanted to.

Beihuang Fan and Shen Huang were captivated by the place. Everyone would also be entranced without exception every time they were first brought here. It was simply too beautiful. They said that every girl had a dream kingdom in which they were the princess. Crystal City most definitely was a kingdom worth dreaming about.

